(c) the additional job opportunities created in these two sectors on account of foreign investment taking place?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

उत्तर प्रदेश के गांवों तथा जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में बैंकों की कमी होना

208. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के चमोली, रूद्रप्रयाग, टिहरी, पिथौरागढ़ और उत्तर काशी जैसे पर्वतीय, सीमान्त और जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में बैंकों की कमी अभी भी बनी हुई है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि चमोली जिले के मुख्यालय गोपेश्वर में केवल स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया की एक ही शाखा है और क्या सरकार ने पंजाब नेशनल बैंक या किसी अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक की एक नई शाखा खोले जाने की लम्बे समय से की जा रही मांग पर कोई कार्यवाही की है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो वहां अन्य बैंक कब तक खुल जाएगा और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम०आर० जनार्दनन): (क) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार, उत्तर प्रदेश के पांच जिलों में क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों समेत वाणिज्यिक बैंकों की शाखाओं की संख्या निम्नानुसार है:—

जिले	शाखाओं की संख्या
1. चमोली	48
2. गढ़वाल	102
3. टिहरी गढ़वाल	73
4. पिथौरागढ़	66
5. उत्तर काशी	26

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक की वर्तमान नीति के अंतर्गत, वर्तमान ग्रामीण शाखाओं के कारोबार में वृद्धि करने और/या सेवा क्षेत्र दृष्टिकोण योजना के प्रभावशाली ढंग से कार्यान्वयन के लिए ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त शाखाएं खोलने की आवश्यकता निर्धारित करने का निर्णय लेने के लिए प्रत्येक बैंक स्वतंत्र है। बैंकों से यह भी कहा गया है कि वे पहाड़ी/आदिवासी क्षेत्रों की विशेष आवश्यकताओं को उचित महत्व दें। बैंकों के वे प्रस्ताव जो उक्त मानदंडों के अनुरूप होते हैं और संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा जिनकी सिफारिश की जाती है, ऐसे प्रत्येक मामले की गुणावगुणों के आधार पर भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा विचार किया जाता है।

(ख) और (ग) गोपेश्वर, उत्तर प्रदेश में भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की एक शाखा है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने अब गोपेश्वर में एक शाखा खोलने के लिए पंजाब नेशनल बैंक को अधिकृत किया है।

Rate of Inflation

209. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual inflation rate which stood at 4.63 per cent last year has been recorded on 10th October, 1998 as 8.10 per cent apart from steep increase in the whole sale price index (WPI) for all commodities particularly onion, pulses and vegetables; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to check inflation and curb day-to-day increase in prices of all essential commodities including vegetables, pulses, fruits etc?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The annual inflation rate on 10th October 1998 was 8.10 per cent as against 4.70 per cent last year. Steep rise in wholesale prices was recorded in a few commodities of daily use such as onion which recorded the highest increase of 310% followed by potato with 298% increase and pulses by 15% over the year.

(b) A number of policy initiatives have been taken by the Government to check the growth of prices. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oils from 25% to 15% to facilitate large volume of import to support domestic

availability. Import duty on pulses has been abolished. Export of onion has been allowed under OGL duty free to increase domestic availability. Some States, especially Delhi arranged the supply of onion through the retail outlets such as Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and Mother dairy etc.

Fiscal prudence, check in money supply growth and supply side management of wage goods are the principal instruments operated by the Government to control inflationary pressures.

Depression in Capital Market

210. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether capital market is undergoing a period of depression; and

(b) if so, the reasons analysed and the corrective measures taken by Government and other concerned agencies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The capital market witnesses fluctuations depending on performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, economic policies of the Government, alternative avenues for raising resources by corporates as well as investment opportunities available to investors, expectations of the investors, speculative activity, developments in the international capital market, etc. The principal consideration of Government and the market regulator is to ensure that the capital market operates in an orderly and transparent manner in full compliance with the rules and regulations.

Fall in the bombay Stock Sensex

211. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the great fall in the Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex by 224 points on October 5, 1998 was as a result of the bear operations involving major Foreign Institutional Investors-(FII) and their Indian friends;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) What action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (b) There are several factors which influence the stock market. These include expectations of the investors regarding the performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, perceptions of the investors about economic policies of the Government, speculative activity, developments in the international capital market etc. It is difficult to conclude that the decline was due to bear operations involving Foreign Institutional Investors-(FIIs) and others. However, the transactions by FIIs in the Indian stock markets are governed by SEBI regulations.

Refund of Income Tax paid on Account of Transport Allowance

212. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether in certain cases the refund of Income Tax already paid on account of Transport allowance granted to Central Government Employees in Delhi has been refunded to the assessees on the very day on which the Income Tax returns for the year 1997-98 were filed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by when the refund to the other assessees will be made; and

whether Government are contemplating to adjust the amount of Income Tax paid in excess on account of Transport allowance during the year 1998-99 in the next assessment year?